

REMARKS

The above amendments are responsive to the Decision on Appeal dated March 3, 2009 (the "Decision on Appeal"). The Decision on Appeal reversed the rejection of Claims 26-28, 31-33, 41-45, 49, 51-52 and 54-57, and issued a new ground of rejection of Claims 41 and 42 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,772,613 to Gelfand.

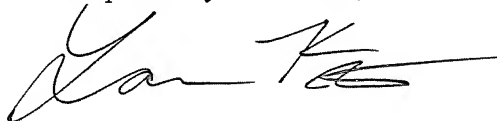
Applicants hereby request that prosecution be reopened. Applicants submit that Claims 26-28, 31-33, 49, 51-52 and 54-57 are in condition for allowance as indicated in the Decision on Appeal. Claims 43-45 depend from rejected Claim 42, but would be in condition for allowance as indicated in the Decision on Appeal if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants submit that Claims 41 and 42 are patentable over the prior art of record. However, in order to expedite prosecution and in view of the new ground of rejection, Claims 41 and 42 have been canceled above, and Claims 43 and 44 have been rewritten in independent form. Therefore, Claims 43 and 44 are in condition for allowance as indicated in the Decision on Appeal. Claim 45 depends from Claim 44, and is likewise in condition for allowance.

Claims 29-30, 34-40, 46-48, 50, 53 and 58-59 were withdrawn as being drawn to a non-elected species. Such claims depend from the allowed claims discussed above, and therefore, consideration and allowance of Claims 29-30, 34-40, 46-48, 50, 53 and 58-59 is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and the same is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at 919-854-1400 for resolution of any outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Laura M. Kelley', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.


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